



Commune Concilium tentum in Camera

Guildhald Ciuitatis London octauo die Octobris, anno regni Domini nostri Iacobi Dei gratia Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ Regis, fidei defensoris, &c. viz. Angliæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ decimo quinto, & Scotiæ quinquagesimo primo, coram Iohanne Leman milite, Maiore Ciuit' præd', Georgio Bolles Maiore elect', Anthonio Benn Milite eiusdem Ciuitatis Recordatore, Stephano Soame milite, Thoma Bennet milite, Thoma Low milite, VVilliel' Cockain milite & Alderman', Richardo Pyott, Edwardo Barkham, VVilliel' Gore, Ioh. Gore, & Cuthberto Hacket Aldermannis, ac VVilliel' Halliday Alderm' vno Vicecom' Ciuitatis prædict', Necnon maiore parte Communiariorum Ciuitatis prædict', de Communi Consilio eiusd' Ciuitat' existent' assemblant', &c.



Whereas of late yeers much question and controuersie hath happened amongst the Inquests in diuers Wards of this City sometimes for the priority of the Foreman and election of Officers, and sometimes for the precedency of the Inquest one before another, by reason whereof many men of good sufficiency haue auoided the seruice of this Inquest, by procuring their liberties for fines of money, whereby young men of lesse experience and sufficiency haue been oftentimes taken to serue in their places, to the dishonour of the gouernement of this Citie, the disgrace of that seruice, and manifest derogation of Justice. And Whereas it is found by experience to be inconuenient, that the choice of the Foreman of the Inquest, and consequently the direction of that Court, and the choice of the Officers of the same, should perpetually fall into one onely precinct of the Ward, and the rest of the Ward excluded that place,

Who happely by their wisdom, countenance and discretion, may better than other accommodate causes and compound strifes, or make a more thorough and seuerer disquisition of offences, if the direction of that seruice were left vnto them, as in all reason it ought. For preuention of which and the like inconueniences, and to settle a constant forme and rule in this behalfe for time to come for all the seuerall Wards of this Citie, It is enacted, ordered and agreed, That henceforth when euery precinct, according to the ancient order, haue presented the names of their Inquest men at the time accustomed, and that they haue all taken their oathes: That then forthwith the good men of the same Inquest shall by most voices proceed, and make choice of one of the most discreet, honest, and able person, among them to be their foreman, without respect had to any particular precinct, or any vsage in that kind, but only to the choice of such a person as may best direct and discharge the seruice, and after such election made, such foreman to be confirmed and allowed by the Alderman of that Ward for the time being, and in his absence by the Lord Maior of this City for the time being. The forme and order hereby set down to be henceforth obserued and kept for euer in euery Ward of this City, any law, vsage or custome to the contrary therof in any wise notwithstanding. Provided alwaies in case the Inquest men of any Ward shall be in number euen, and shall for the choice of their foreman be diuided, the one halfe against the other, then in such case the Alderman of the Ward, and in his absence the Lord Maior of the said City (for the time being) shall haue one voice in choice of the said foreman, for deciding of controuersie and perfecting the said election.